

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----044802 030806Z /11

O P 030717Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8714  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 MANILA 19061

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF, JCS, CINCPAC, CINCPACAF, CINCPACFLT,  
CINCPACREPPHIL, 13TH AF

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, RP, US  
SUBJECT: ADMIRAL WEISNER CALL ON MARCOS - DECEMBER 2

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MARCOS RECEIVED ADMIRAL WEISNER AND  
AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 2 FOR ONE HOUR DISCUSSION WHICH A)  
EMPHASIZED MARCOS' INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING MDB LINKAGE WITH  
CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES (HE SAID SPECIFICALLY THAT DEFENSE  
SECRETARY ENRILE SHOULD BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED), B) INVOLVED  
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON NORTHEAST ASIA, KOREA AND VIETNAM, C)  
REGISTERED AMBASSADOR'S PROMISE THAT DELINEATED MAPS OF BASES  
AREAS WOULD BE READY SOON, HOPEFULLY WITHIN A WEEK "IR SO,"  
D) CONVEYED MARCOS' HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE UNIT BY UNIT  
MUSLIM SURRENDERS BY MARCH AND THAT MUSLIM PROBLEM WOULD BE  
RESOLVED IN FIRST HALF OF 1978, AND E) INCLUDED MARCOS'  
OBSERVATION THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO FINISH BASE DISCUSSIONS  
BEFORE ELECTIONS FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH WOULD TAKE  
PLACE "SOONER" THAN JUNE 1978. END SUMMARY.

2. MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD. PRESIDENT MARCOS RECEIVED ADMIRAL  
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WEISNER AND AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 2 FOR CALL THAT EXTENDED TO  
ONE HOUR. DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE, CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL  
ESPINO, REAR ADMIRAL SHELTON AND FSO CONNORS WERE PRESENT.  
MARCOS REFERRED AT THE OUTSET TO REPORT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM  
ESPINO ON THE MDB MEETING OF THE PREVIOUS DAY (DECEMBER 1).  
HE SAID THAT THE REPORT EMPHASIZES A WEAKNESS IN THE MDB  
ARRANGEMENTS. HE SAID HE HAD LEARNED FOR THE FIRST TIME WHEN

READING THE REPORT THAT THERE IS A JOINT DEFENSE PLAN FOR THE PHILIPPINES. WEISNER SAID HE WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR THIS AND REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF DEFENSE PLANNING IN THE MDB, NOTING THAT THE FIRST PLAN WAS PREPARED IN 1964; THAT THERE WERE ADDITIONAL EFFORTS IN 1968; AND THAT THE PRESENT PLAN, MDB 1-70, DATES FROM 1970 WITH SUBSEQUENT REFINEMENTS TO KEEP IT UPDATED. MARCOS STRESSED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT EITHER HE OR ENRILE HAD HEARD ANYTHING OF THE PLAN. OBSERVING THAT PART OF THE PROBLEM IS ON THE PHILIPPINE SIDE (FOR FAILING TO CONVEY INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES), MARCOS SAID THAT THERE IS ALSO A DEFICIENCY IN THE CURRENT MDB STRUCTURE. NOTING THAT THE MDB IS EXCLUSIVELY MILITARY, HE EMPHASIZED THAT ALL DECISIONS REACHED BY THE MDB SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES. HE COMMENTED THAT HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE AFP THOUGHT IT NECESSARY UNDER THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY TO KEEP DELIBERATIONS IN THE MDB SECRET. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE MDB STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH DEFENSE AND STATE AND THE MDB CONTINUES TO BE VIEWED AS AN IMPORTANT MECHANISM FOR THE MILITARY TO MEET REGULARLY TO DISCUSS PLANS. HE SAID THAT IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO SUPPLEMENT THESE MILITARY MEETINGS WITH SOME MECHANISM FOR CIVILIAN CONSULTATIONS. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE EXPECTED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY (DOD) ABRAMOWITZ WOULD HAVE THIS QUESTION VERY MUCH IN MIND WHEN THEY VISIT MANILA IN JANUARY. MARCOS SAID THAT HE IS  
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INTERESTED IN IMPROVING EXISTING MECHANISMS AND AGREES THAT THE MDB SHOULD CONTINUE TO WORK "AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL." MARCOS SUGGESTED THAT A CONSULTATIVE DIALOGUE ON THE CIVILIAN SIDE MIGHT BE BETTER MAINTAINED THROUGH THE US AMBASSADOR RATHER THAN THROUGH DELEGATIONS COMING FROM WASHINGTON. THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING MARCOS' VIEWS ON HOW THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS MIGHT BE STRUCTURED AND WILL TRY TO BE RESPONSIVE. REVIEWING POSSIBLE APPROACHES, THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS UNDER THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY (MDT). HE ALSO NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO DEAL WITH QUESTIONS IN THE SECURITY AREA ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS. HE ADDED THAT WHILE HE FELT IT IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS MATTERS ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS, IT WAS ALSO DESIRABLE TO HAVE PEOPLE FROM WASHINGTON VISIT PERIODICALLY TO PRESENT WASHINGTON VIEWS DIRECTLY AND HEAR AT FIRST HAND PHILIPPINE VIEWS. ALTOGETHER, THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE COULD SEE: A) A CONTINUATION OF THE REGULAR

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INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF, JCS, CINCPAC, CINCPACAF, CINCPACFLT,  
CINCPACREPPHIL, 13TH AF

MDB MEETINGS OF THE MILITARY, B) HIS (THE AMBASSADOR'S)  
PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS QUESTIONS WHICH MIGHT  
ARISE AND C) PERIODIC MEETINGS BETWEEN SENIOR DEFENSE AND  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS PEOPLE AS REQUIRED. MARCOS SAID THAT THE  
"MINISTERIAL IDEA" UNDER THE MDT MIGHT BE REVIVED. HE ASKED  
HOW THE MDB MEETINGS ARE ORGANIZED. WEISNER REVIEWED THE  
PATTERN OF MDB ACTIVITY, DESCRIBING THE REGULAR MONTHLY  
MEETINGS AND THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,  
WHICH IN PRACTICE MEANS THE PHILIPPINE SECRETARY OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS AND THE US AMBASSADOR. ENRILE ASKED WHETHER THE MDB  
1-70 PLAN HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.  
ESPINO SAID NOT; THAT MDB 1-70 WAS A MILITARY PLAN. ENRILE  
SAID THAT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN BECAUSE IT INVOLVED EXPENDITURES  
OF GOP FUNDS. MARCOS WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE MDB SOMETIMES  
REACHES DECISIONS WHICH SHOULD INVOLVE THE DEPARTMENT OF  
NATIONAL DEFENSE RATHER THAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AS ARRANGED  
UNDER THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. HE STRESSED THAT IN THE  
PHILIPPINES, THE DEFENSE SECRETARY IS THE KEY PERSON FOR ALL  
ISSUED RELATING TO DEFENSE. MARCOS ASKED WHAT THE CONSULTA-  
TIVE PROCEDURES ARE IN KOREA AND IN JAPAN. WEISNER EXPLAINED  
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THAT IN KOREA THE PROCESS IS HANDLED BY THE DEFENSE MINISTRY  
WHILE IN JAPAN THE CONSULTATIVE STRUCTURE INVOLVES THE

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. MARCOS SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PHILIPPINES. HE REPEATED THAT THE DEFENSE SECRETARY SHOULD BE THE CONTACT POINT IN WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE AND THAT HE (MARCOS) WOULD IN TURN KEEP THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INFORMED. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WASHINGTON HAS ALREADY BEEN ALERTED TO GENERAL GOP CONCERNS IN THIS AREA AND HE PROMISED TO REPORT THESE SPECIFIC COMMENTS. MARCOS ADDED THAT CURRENT MDB PROCEDURES COULD REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL FORMALLY CHANGED BUT IN THE MEANTIME THE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE SHOULD BE INFORMALLY INCLUDED.

3. MDB BRIEFING. MARCOS ASKED WEISNER TO REVIEW THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MDB BRIEFING PRESENTED THE PREVIOUS DAY. EARLY IN THAT REVIEW, MARCOS NOTED APPARENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CURRENT BRIEFING AND ONE DONE EARLIER (INR BRIEFING OF JUNE 1977) IN SOVIET AND CHINESE TROOP STRENGTHS IN THE BORDER AREAS. WEISNER SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN THE FORCES DEPLOYED IN THE AREA AND SUGGESTED THAT DIFFERING METHODS OF PRESENTATION MAY HAVE SUGGESTED DIFFERENCES THAT DO NOT IN FACT EXIST. MARCOS OBSERVED THAT THE PREVIOUS BRIEFING (THE INR BRIEFING) INDICATED THAT ONE-THIRD OF THE SOVIET AIR FORCE IS IN NORTHEAST ASIA. WEISNER RESPONDED THAT 28 TO 33 PERCENT OF ALL SOVIET ARMED FORCES IS NOW IN NORTHEAST ASIA. TURNING TO VIETNAM, MARCOS ASKED WHETHER THERE IS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT VIETNAM'S PLANS. WEISNER SAID THAT VIETNAM WOULD PROBABLY BE PREOCCUPIED WITH ITS INTERNAL SITUATION AND WITH LAOS FOR THE NEAR TERM, SAY THE NEXT FIVE TO SEVEN YEARS. HE SAID THAT LATER THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT VIETNAM MAY BECOME INTERESTED IN ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE ITS BORDERS. ENRILE REFERRED TO AN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH  
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WEISNER (NOVEMBER 30, REPORTED THROUGH NAVY CHANNELS) IN WHICH HE (WEISNER) SAID KOREA IS THE AREA OF PRIMARY CONCERN IN THE REGION. WEISNER DESCRIBED THE KOREAN SITUATION IN FAMILIAR TERMS, NOTING THAT THE SOUTH COULD NOT NOW DEFEND ITSELF SUCCESSFULLY WITHOUT US ASSISTANCE. MARCOS ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE NORTH INVADED, SAY TO THE EXTENT OF ITS INITIAL INVASION IN 1951. WEISNER SAID THAT UNDER THE DEFENSE TREATY THE US WOULD COME TO KOREA'S DEFENSE. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT US FORCES ARE THERE, AND THAT EVEN WITH GROUND FORCES WITHDRAWN, THE AIR FORCE AND THE NAVY WOULD ASSIST IN KOREA'S DEFENSE. WEISNER STRESSED THAT WITH THIS ASSISTANCE KOREA COULD SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND ITSELF. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT IT IS THE US ASSESSMENT THAT THE PRC WOULD NEITHER ENCOURAGE NOR INVOLVE ITSELF IN INITIATING A CONFLICT. WEISNER ADDED THAT NEITHER THE USSR NOR THE PRC WOULD ENCOURAGE

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8716  
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S E C R E T SECTION 3 OF 3 MANILA 19061

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF, JCS, CINCPAC, CINCPACAF, CINCPACFLT,  
CINCPACREPPHIL, 13TH AF

CONFLICT ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT ANY ATTACK FROM THE NORTH WOULD HAVE TO BE THE INITIATIVE OF NORTH KOREA ALONE. ENRILE ASKED WHETHER JAPAN MAY MOVE TOWARD REARMAMENT. WEISNER SAID THAT IS NOT EXPECTED. HE NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR JAPAN TO IMPROVE ITS AIR DEFENSE AND ASW CAPABILITIES BUT EMPHASIZED THAT HE COULD NOT FORESEE ANY DEGREE OF REARMAMENT IN JAPAN WHICH WOULD CREATE A THREAT OR CAUSE WORRY. ENRILE SAID THAT THE CURRENT JAPANESE BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR DEFENSE IS UP BY 13 TO 14 PERCENT. WEISNER SAID HE BELIEVED THE PROPOSED INCREASE IS LESS THAN THAT AND, IN ANY CASE, WOULD BE LESS THAN 1 PERCENT OF THE JAPANESE GNP. WEISNER FURTHER NOTED THAT THE PROPOSAL ON DEFENSE EXPENDITURES REMAINS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE DIET. ENRILE REFERRED TO A CONVERSATION IN 1976 WITH AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN ABOUT POSSIBLE JAPANESE/US PLANNING ON JOINT DEFENSE. ACCORDING TO ENRILE, SULLIVAN SAID THE ONLY AREA OF COOPERATION IS ASW WHERE THE JAPANESE WOULD COVER PART OF THE NORTH-WEST PACIFIC. WEISNER NOTED THAT THE JAPANESE CONSTITUTION PRECLUDES THE JAPANESE FROM DOING ANYTHING OUTSIDE THE AREA OF DEFENSE. HE SAID IT WOULD BE GOOD IF THE JAPANESE COULD  
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DO MORE IN THE NORTHWEST PACIFIC FOR THEIR DEFENSE.

4. BASES ISSUES, ELECTIONS, MINDANAO. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE MAPS ON THE BASE AREAS ARE BEING PREPARED AND THAT HE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT THEM IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO. WEISNER NOTED THAT THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS ARE WORKING HARD ON THIS PROJECT. WEISNER WENT ON TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION FOR MARCOS' DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN THE BASE DISCUSSIONS. WEISNER ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR MARCOS' DECREES ON TRESPASSING AND THE AERO CLUBS. MARCOS OBSERVED THAT "IT WAS ONE OF OUR AGREEMENTS AND WE COMPLIED." THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE PREPARATION OF OUR RESPECTIVE PRESENTATIONS (REFERENCE TO MAPS AND TO AFP EQUIPMENT LIST) IS TAKING BOTH OF US SOME TIME TO COMPLETE. MARCOS SAID THAT HE HOPES TO FINISH THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE BASES BEFORE ELECTIONS FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER THE ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN JUNE. MARCOS SAID "SOONER." MARCOS WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WANTS EARLY ELECTIONS FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FIRST, HE HOPES TO HAVE THE MUSLIM PROBLEM SETTLED IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR. IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID THAT HE EXPECTS TO HAVE UNIT BY UNIT MUSLIM SURRENDERS BY MARCH. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD HOPE TO ORGANIZE AN AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT IN THE SOUTH EVEN BEFORE THAT TO UNDERCUT COMPLAINTS FROM THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE. SECOND, HE WANTS TO BE ABLE TO CONDUCT A ONE TO TWO MONTH ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN DURING THE DRY SEASON (HE NOTED THAT RAINS BEGIN IN JUNE). THIRD, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT WORLD ECONOMIC TRENDS, NOTING THAT THE COPPER INDUSTRY NEEDS HELP AND THAT THERE ARE OTHER ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE LEGISLATURE ESTABLISHED BEFORE THESE PROBLEMS INTENSIFY. (IN AN ASIDE, MARCOS NOTED THAT HE IS ENCOURAGING AT LEAST HALF OF THE CABINET, INCLUDING ENRILE, TO RUN "AS REQUIRED BY THE CONSTITUTION.")

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5. COMMENT: THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING WAS CORDIAL AND RELAXED. (SESSION ENDED WITH MARCOS ARRANGING GOLF MATCH DECEMBER 3 ON MALACANANG EXECUTIVE COURSE.) KEY SUBSTANTIVE POINT WAS MDB AND MARCOS' REPEATED ASSERTION THAT ARRANGEMENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING MDB INTO DIRECT LINKAGE WITH CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES, SPECIFICALLY DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE. MARCOS SEEMS FLEXIBLE ON HOW THIS MIGHT BE DONE AND WILL BE EXPECTING FULL DISCUSSION OF ISSUE WHEN HOLBROOKE AND ABRAMOWITZ VISIT IN JANUARY. IN THE MEANTIME, MARCOS WILL BE AWAITING OUR PRESENTATION OF MAPS.

NEWSOM

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## Message Attributes

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